

CSBG Stimulus Funding – Are You Preparing for the Spotlight?

GETTING READY





American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

- President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)



ARRA Purposes

- The purposes of the ARRA
 - (1) To preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery
 - (2) To assist those most impacted by the recession
 - (3) To provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health



ARRA Purposes continued

- (4) To invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructures that will provide long-term benefits
- (5) To stabilize State and local government budgets, in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services and counterproductive state and local tax increases



CSBG American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

- Overview of CSBG language
 - For carrying out activities under sections 674 through 679 of the CSBG Act
 - 1 percent of the funds made available to each State shall be used for benefits enrollment coordination activities relating to the identification of eligible individuals and families in Federal, State, and local benefits programs
 - The ARRA allows States to raise the income eligibility to 200% - but CA State law currently limits eligibility to 100% of the federal poverty level



Central Theme

- Jobs, jobs, jobs
 - Job creation (agency and clients)
 - Job preservation
 - Employment supports
 - Job training



Second Theme - ARRA - Accountability and Transparency

- States must ensure all ARRA Funds are clearly distinguishable from non ARRA funds
- ARRA funds must be tracked separately from regular CSBG allotment
- Separate CSBG ARRA Contracts will be issued
- More frequent fiscal and programmatic reporting required
- “Open Book” and transparency
- May be specific new reporting requirements & outcomes



How Much Money?

- CSD expects to get \$90 million in stimulus funding
- CSD's regular annual CSBG funding for the 2008 program year was \$58 million



How Can Stimulus Money be Used?

- Have not received official guidance
- Key – demonstrate outcomes
- 2 possible categories for reporting
 - Jobs (Number created, number preserved, job supports, employment training, etc.)
 - “Assist Those Most Impacted”
- ? - Can most of your outcomes be grouped in these 2 categories? Other?



Employment Category

- National Program Indicator 1.1
Employment
 - A. Unemployed and obtained a job
 - B. Employed and obtained an increase in employment income
 - C. Achieved “living wage” employment and benefits



Employment Supports Category

- National Performance Indicator 1.2
 - There are 9 indicators under this category that include support services such as:
 - Pre-employment skills
 - ABE/GED certificate or diploma
 - Health services
 - Safe and affordable housing
 - Food assistance



OCS CSBG Preliminary Guidance

- Prior to communicating specific amounts to States, Federal spending plans must be officially approved
- Specific allotments and time lines for award are currently under review
- Department of State Assistance (DSA) will provide specific guidance as soon as Federal spending plans are approved
- CSD has been told it can expect money “in next few weeks”



CSBG Guidance continued

- CSD will be required to submit an amendment to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 CSBG Application and Plan
- Reporting requirements for the ARRA funds will have short turnaround times for submission of plans and reports
- CSBG program staff should begin consultation with CSBG eligible entities regarding planned activities



ARRA Timeframe

- CSD may require implementation plans from agencies
- CSD goal: to distribute contracts as expediently as possible



“Defining Moment”

- Pres. Obama – Programs have to demonstrate they work – no guarantees for the future
- Short time frame
- CSBG entities have the mission, philosophy, experience, and flexibility to be successful



California is Spotlighted

- California is one of 16 states the Government Accountability Office (GAO) will follow over the next few years to provide an ongoing longitudinal analysis of the use of funds under the ARRA



California Spotlight continued

- Selection was based on the following:
 - Basis of outlay projections
 - Percentage of the U.S. population represented
 - Unemployment rates and changes
 - Mix of states' poverty levels
 - Geographic coverage
 - Representation of both urban and rural areas



Next Steps

- Start planning now – Board/Staff discussions
- Make use of Community Action Plan process to help decide on priorities
- Focus on outcomes



Next Steps continued

- Build new/expand existing partnerships
- Take advantage of the spotlight and new opportunities that will come your way (Money = Popularity)
- Heads up – Single Stop USA
- Promote your successes!



CSBG & Energy Collaborations

- If you have energy program, think about using some of funds to ramp up your energy services
- If your agency does not directly administer energy programs contact the provider in your service area to begin the dialogue on combining & leveraging resources



CSBG & Energy Collaborations

continued

- Methods of Collaboration
 - Assist with outreach
 - Support job training
 - Mutual referrals between programs
 - Case management to achieve self-sufficiency



Available Resources

- CSBG Advisory Committee (CAC Meetings)
- ARRA Partnership Task Force
- Your Role in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (March 12, 2009 memo from Lloyd Throne, CSD Director)
- www.csd.ca.gov/Recovery/Recovery.aspx
- www.recovery.gov



Prepare Now for the Future

- Success is when preparation meets opportunity -
- Opportunity has knocked –
- We are prepared –
- We will be successful!